GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:285
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Religious Freedom
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) in its 2016 annual report has stated that 'India is on a negative trajectory in terms of religious freedom';

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether USCIRF has shown interest to visit India this year but was denied visa; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (d): The Government's reaction to the report has already been made public as stated by the official spokesperson as under:

"Our attention has been drawn to the recent report by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, which once again fails to show proper understanding of India, its Constitution and its society.
â€¦2/

India is a vibrant pluralistic society founded on strong democratic principles. The Indian Constitution guarantees Fundamental Rights to all its citizens including the Right to Freedom of Religion. Government does not see the locus standi of a foreign entity like USCIRF to pronounce on the state of Indian citizens' constitutionally protected rights. We take no cognizance of their report".

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